

Message Text

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46

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AGR-20 EB-11 IO-14 RSC-01 COME-00

TRSE-00 SWF-02 PC-10 USIA-15 INT-08 FDRE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 IGA-02 DRC-01 (ISO) W
----- 051304

P 061700Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6768

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITYP

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

UNCLAS DAKAR 2404

AFDROUGHT

EO 11652: NA

SUBJ: CONGESTION AT DAKAR PORT - A WARNING

ROME FOR FODAG

1. SOCOPAO HAS INFORMED FFPO THAT AN UNPRECEDENTED 100,000 MT COMMODITY ASSISTANCE INTENDED FOR THE SAHELIAN COUNTRIES IS EXPECTED IN DAKAR PORT DURING THE MONTH OF MAY. ABOUT FORTY PER CENT OF THIS TOTAL IS FOR MALI, ACCORDING TO THE SAME SOURCE. INCLUDED IN THE AGGREGATE ARE 15,000 MT CORN FROM EEC FOR SENEGAL.

2. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT NOTWITHSTANDING THE EXPERIENCE ACQUIRED BY PORT AUTHORITIES AND FREIGH FORWARDERS OVER THE TWO YEARS, THE ATTEMPTED ABSORPTION OF SUCH A HUGE QUANTITY OF GRAIN WITHIN SUCH A NARROW TIME FRAME MAY BE POTENTIALLY DISASTROUS, AND WILL IN ANY EVENT LEAD TO CONGESTION OF ABSOLUTELY MONUMENTAL PROPORTIONS.

3. WHERE AID TO MALI IS CONCERNED, OSRO SHOULD BE REMINDED THAT THERE ARE ALREADY APPROXIMATELY 40,000 UNCLASSIFIED

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MT GRAIN AWAITING DISPATCH AT THE ZONE FRANCE MALIENME

OF THE PORTKA THE ZONE FRANCHE IS ALREADY OVERBURDENED
WITH COMMODITIES AS IT IS; THE IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF AN
ADDITIONAL 40,000 MT ONLY EXACERBATES AN ALREADY
CRITICAL PROBLEM. THE COMBINED MALI/SENEGAL RAIL
DISPATCH CAPABILITY CURRENTLY
HARDLY EXCEEDS 12,000
MT MONTHLY.

4. QUITE OUTSIDE OF THE APPARENT LACK OF COORDINATION
AMONG DONORS WHICH HAS BROUGHT THIS SITUATION ABOUT,
THE IMMEDIATE CONCERN HERE IS FOR THE PROTECTION AND
PROPER STORAGE OF THE DISCHARGED COMMODITY, GIVEN THE
ALMOST IMMINENT COMMENCEMENT OF THE RAINY SEASON.
IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT COVERED STORAGE AT PORT,
INCLUDING THAT AVAILABLE FOR COMMERCIAL LEASE, WILL
NOT BE ABLE TO ABSORB MORE THAN A FRACTION OF THIS
TONNAGE. UNLESS REPEAT UNLESS SCHEDULE OF DELIVERIES
CAN BE DRASTICALLY REARRANGED BY OSRO IN CONJUNCTION
WITH THE DONOR COUNTRIES, THE CONSEQUENT PENALTIES
IN TERMS OF DAMAGED AND LOSECOMMODITY (THROUGH
EXPOSURE TO WIND AND RAIN) ARE LIKELY TO BE INCALCULABLE.

5. CAWE DETAILING THE ACTUAL POSITION (ARRIVALS, TONNAGES,
DONORS) WITH APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS, TO FOLLOW.
AGGREY

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NNN

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